UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
30th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 7 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 30th MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. RANA	(Nepal)
later:	Mr. MARTYNOV	(Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.25 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 45 TO 66 AND 155 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON ALL DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

Mr. NEGROTTO CAMBIASO (Italy): On behalf of the 12 member States of the European Community, I wish to make some comments on agenda item 55, on the subject of chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons, on which specific draft resolutions are under consideration.

The idea that recourse to such weapons could still be considered by some countries a military option for intimidation and aggression is repugnant to the Twelve and represents the clearest proof of the need to achieve a multilaterally binding and verifiable commitment to eliminate such weapons from the face of the Earth.

The member countries of the European Community wish to stress their undiminished resolve to achieve as speedily as possible the total elimination of chemical weapons world wide through the early conclusion and implementation of a multilateral and verifiable convention of a universal nature dealing with the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and with their destruction.

The Twelve note with satisfaction the agreement on non-production of chemical weapons and drastic reduction of their respective chemical-weapon stockpiles, which was signed by the United States of America and the Soviet Union in June in Washington. The agreement has already provided the Geneva negotiations with a constructive impetus in various respects. The Twelve hope that the agreement between the two major possessors will soon be implemented. At the same time, they wish to encourage other States possessors of chemical weapons to declare themselves as such, as a further step towards confidence-building and transparency, to make

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their contribution to the multilateral negotiations taking place in Geneva and to declare their intention to be among the original signatories of the convention.

The Twelve are firmly convinced that, if the future ban is to be really effective and achieve its objective of freeing mankind from the danger of such a scourge, it will need to be global, comprehensive and verifiable.

Since the last session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, the Twelve have resolutely maintained their commitment to and their efforts to reach such an agreement in the shortest possible time. With regret, they note that progress in the negotiations has not matched the expectations raised by the Paris Conference of January 1989, not only in their respective countries but in the whole international community. At this stage the Twelve recognize the need for a vigorous collective effort to bring these negotiations to their conclusion at the earliest date.

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The Twelve are fully aware of the diversity and the complexity of the problems to be solved. At the same time they have taken note with interest of the idea of a ministerial session of the Conference on Disarmament to be held at a suitable time to overcome the remaining obstacles and conclude negotiations.

The Twelve do not underestimate the complex problems which must yet be resolved. One of these is related to the setting-up of an effective verification system. In order to acquire universal adherence it is essential that the means of verification, to be put at the disposal of the future international organization, be sufficiently reliable so as to provide all States with the degree of confidence necessary to ensure enforcement of the total ban.

As the Paris Conference and the Canberra meeting helped to highlight in 1989, all the members of the international community are equally responsible for showing and substantiating their commitment to the total and speedy elimination of chemical weapons. The Twelve feel encouraged by the increase in the number of countries taking part, as observers, in the negotiations. They believe that more active participation by observer countries can contribute greatly to the attainment of universal adherence from the outset which represents an outstanding priority to ensure the effectiveness of the convention. The Twelve have already stated their intention to be among the original signatories to the convention and to promote its early entry into force.

The Twelve have been particularly concerned to note the tendency towards the proliferation of such weapons in recent years. They have firmly condemned their use in the recent past, which has caused unspeakable suffering and emphasized the danger to regional stability and general security. Similarly they deplore the recent threat of use. Such events reinforce the vital importance of upholding the 1925 Geneva Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare. The Twelve

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recall in this context the reaffirmation of the commitment to this Protocol made at the Paris Conference in 1989.

Pending the signing of the convention the Twelve have adopted measures to control the export of some chemical substances which could be used for chemical weapons. A wider alignment of such controls is desirable.

The Twelve member States of the Community express their satisfaction at the dialogue which has developed between Governments and industry representatives. More recently, the meeting held in Geneva in June provided a useful opportunity to reaffirm the constructive commitment of the chemical industry, already expressed at the Canberra Conference in September 1989, to work together with Governments and continue to contribute to the achievement of the ban.

The Twelve attach equally great importance to the 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. The Twelve, while welcoming the fact that the Convention has now more than 100 parties, renew their call upon all those States which have not ratified or acceded to it, to do so without delay, thus contributing to the strengthening of international confidence in this instrument. To this end, they have strongly urged, through appropriate initiatives, the countries non-parties to the Treaty to ratify or accede to it before the Third Review Conference, next year. In anticipation of that event they underscore the importance of compliance with the confidence-building measures introduced at the Second Review Conference in 1986 and look forward to their further strengthening and expansion.

The Twelve finally consider that the present régime could be improved through greater co-operation among the parties to the Convention, as well as giving due consideration to any further new measures at the coming review Conference.

Mr. ZIPPORI (Israel): I have asked to speak in order to make a few comments on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.1 regarding item 49, "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East". I should like once again to express our appreciation to the Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General Akashi, the officials of the Disarmament Division, and especially the three independent experts for providing us with a very thoughtful and useful study in document A/45/435.

As requested by the General Assembly, the Secretary-General has given much thought to "the circumstances and characteristics of the Middle East", some of which are crucial from Israel's point of view.

The study dwells on the precariousness of Israel's situation, and this is what it says in paragraphs 97 and 98:

"... there are indications that Israel's relative conventional strength may be diminishing. In this connection, one factor that should be pointed out is the acquisition by potential opponents of ballistic missiles with a relatively long range and high accuracy. This gives those States a means of striking at a longer distance and enables them to participate in a conflict, even if their territory does not directly abut on the opponent's. As its population is small and becoming smaller in proportion to those of the other nations in the area, Israel has also become more vulnerable to a situation of prolonged warfare leading to a high number of casualties among its civilians or its military.

"Against this background, it is appropriate to point out that Israel's security position is characterized by three features that cannot but play a part in determining its attitude towards the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone: the relatively small size of its territory; the sustained hostility between itself and the great majority of States of the region; and the fact

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that it has no military allies in the region and that the one State that might support it in a conflict is geographically remote." (A/45/435, paras. 97-98)

Let me amplify these statements. Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria continue to espouse the unconditional liquidation of Israel. I say these threats are unconditional and have nothing to do with the solution of any problem, and certainly not with a resolution of the Palestinian problem. These countries just wish to destroy Israel and their designs are backed up with a massive military potential. We have tried in vain to alert the General Assembly over the years to the existential problems which Israel faces. It is possible that the General Assembly will appreciate the force of Israel's warnings in the light of recent experiences with Iraq. The international summons required to meet the Iraqi threat certainly illustrates the massive character of the threat we have to face from Iraq alone.

The study further dwells on the need to deal with all security issues separately, but concurrently, and not with the nuclear aspect alone. This is what it says in paragraph 151:

"The close relationship - the 'linkage' - among all the elements that affect security is well known. Nuclear capabilities are linked to chemical weapons, chemical weapons to conventional arms, conventional arms to political conflict. And all these threads are woven into a seamless fabric of fear and insecurity. If the area is to become and remain truly nuclear-free, then this fabric must be cut into pieces and dealt with piece by piece. The problem is much too complex and unyielding for any comprehensive settlement to solve all at once. Yet all the separate elements must be worked on concurrently, for it will not be possible to settle any one piece of the problem unless it is clear that progress is being made on the other pieces as well. A radical transformation, step by step, must be effected in the military and political

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relationships of the entire area. The peoples of the Middle East must develop confidence that the political conflicts that surely will long remain are going to be settled - and settled equitably - without resort to force or the threat of force." (ibid., para. 151)

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

That statement underscores what we believe to be true. A credible nuclear-weapon-free zone can only be one in which the threat or use of force of any kind are ruled out.

Lastly, I wish to draw the attention of the First Committee to the insistence of the study on the need to create confidence. It states:

"Confidence must be built on all sides: confidence that declarations of a desire for a just and lasting peace are not merely a smokescreen, confidence that military solutions to political problems are excluded, confidence that military postures that are perceived as threatening can be avoided or adjusted. Renunciation of hostile acts and of threatening, inflammatory declarations would do much to increase confidence as well. Most important of all, there must be progress in solving the fundamental conflicts in the region. Without such progress, technical measures in the nuclear area or on other security problems will hardly be given serious thought, much less will they be developed to provide a meaningful barrier to tension and even war." (A/45/435, para. 110)

We believe that the creation of confidence is the inevitable precursor to any credible arrangement in the Middle East. The first step can, in our view, be only one: the ready acknowledgement of Israel's place in the Middle East and the cessation of warlike threats and actions on the part of Arab leaders. We can certainly not countenance a denial of our existence as a basis on which trust can be built.

In chapters IV and V of the study, the Secretary-General makes a number of specific proposals. I shall not discuss them in detail at this stage. Some do, and some do not, in our view, meet the contingencies of the situation. Let me, however, impress on the Committee the reference to the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone:

READEX FICHE

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

"Realistically, however, such a zone can be realized only step by step in a process extending over years, a process in which all States would work to create a total environment in which no State feels its security is threatened. A zone can be even more effective in this regard than the NPT, essential as that instrument and its IAEA safeguards system are. A zone can, for example, involve even more extensive and rigorous verification procedures; it can establish additional constraints on peaceful nuclear activities; it can provide for an extensive system of positive and negative security guarantees; it can prescribe even more difficult requirements for withdrawal than the NPT." (ibid., para. 109)

The study is careful in not assigning an order of priorities to its recommendations. In our view, it is manifest that the most elementary confidence-building measures, which I mentioned before, need to precede the negotiation of any credible arrangement. Israel's legitimacy in the Middle East needs to be acknowledged by its neighbours and threats to its existence must cease. Next, a nuclear-weapon-free zone needs to be negotiated between the States of the region, and such negotiations need to be paralleled by negotiations on other issues which threaten the security of the States of the region, especially those that derive from the sheer quantity and quality of arms deployed.

The situation between Israel and its committed Arab adversaries is not symmetrical. They threaten Israel unconditionally and thereby aggravate the prospects for the solution of any problem. For its part, Israel has never threatened any Arab country.

There is no doubt in our mind that it is we, above all, who need to be reassured.

(Mr. Zippori, Israel)

We are asked to vote on draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.1. Despite its misgivings on the modalities spelt out in it, Israel will join the consensus, as it did in previous years. Israel wants a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the Middle East and wants such a zone and the negotiations leading to it to do away with the danger of further wars of any kind, altogether.

Rather than taking issue with the various paragraphs in detail, let me state once again the modalities which we believe to be essential. First, with regard to free and direct negotiations between the States of the region, we have said, and state again, that we stand ready to begin discussion with any State of the region willing to do so. Secondly, with regard to reliance on mutual arrangements - including inspections - we cannot confide our security to international supervision, which is at the mercy of political contingencies, has not prevented a single local war and is likely to break down every time there is tension. I doubt that inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency will be permitted to visit Iraq nowadays.

Those conditions, which imply a cessation of wars, are, in our view, indispensable. The detached observer may not care, but we happen to be the direct object of evil designs, and are right to be wary.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26.

Ms. SUKOVIC (Yugoslavia): I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26, entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament", on behalf of Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Venezuela, Viet Nam and my own country, Yugoslavia.

(Ms. Sukovic, Yugoslavia)

I should like to inform the Committee that Bolivia and Pakistan have now joined the list of sponsors.

The sponsors attach the greatest importance to the work of the Conference on Disarmament. They are convinced that in the present international climate, when substantive progress is being made on bilateral and regional levels, the Conference has acquired even greater importance as the single multilateral negotiating body on disarmament and that multilateral efforts and bilateral negotiations should complement each other. That is why the sponsors consider that the Conference should be most directly involved in negotiating the priority issues of disarmament, and particularly those concerning nuclear disarmament. However, the report submitted this year by the Conference to the General Assembly shows that this is not yet the case.

As a result, the sponsors of the draft resolution note with regret that the Conference was not able to commence negotiations on the nuclear issues on its agenda. In the last two preambular paragraphs, expectations are expressed that the Conference, in view of the positive current progress in some fields of disarmament, will be in a position to reach concrete agreements on disarmament issues to which the United Nations has for years assigned the greatest priority and urgency. The sponsors also consider that in the present international climate a new impetus to negotiations on disarmament at all levels is needed.

Having in mind the fact that in this year's report of the Conference on Disarmament special attention is given to the efforts made to improve the functioning of the Conference, I should like to submit an amendment to draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26, adding a new paragraph at the end of the preambular part, and in that way encourage the Conference to continue its efforts in that direction. It reads as follows:

(Ms. Sukovic, Yugoslavia)

"Taking note with satisfaction of the relevant paragraphs of the report of the Conference on Disarmament on the progress towards improved and effective functioning of the Conference on Disarmament, and expressing the hope that the progress will continue in all aspects of its work".

In the operative part of the draft resolution, after reaffirming the role of the Conference on Disarmament as the single multilateral negotiating forum of the international community, the sponsors note the progress made in the negotiations on the elaboration of a draft convention on a comprehensive and effective prohibition of all chemical weapons and urge the Conference to intensify its work with a view to completing negotiations on such a draft convention as soon as possible.

(Ms. Sukovic, Yugoslavia)

After noting the re-establishment of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear-Test Ban, the General Assembly would, in paragraph 4, call upon the Conference to strengthen its work, to further its mandate through substantive negotiations, and to adopt concrete measures on the specific priority issues of disarmament on its agenda, and would urge the Conference to provide negotiating mandates to ad hoc committees on all agenda items.

In the remaining operative paragraphs, the General Assembly would request the Conference to submit a report on its work to it at its forty-sixth session, and would decide to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-sixth session the item entitled "Report of the Conference on Disarmament".

Before concluding, I should like to express our appreciation to all delegations for their constructive co-operation as co-sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.26, as well as to other delegations which offered their views. At the same time, I should like to stress that my delegation, together with other sponsors, is continuing consultations with all interested delegations in the hope that the draft resolution will receive the widest possible support so that it may be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Pakistan, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.18.

Mr. KAMAL (Pakistan): I have the honour to introduce the draft resolution sponsored by Bangladesh and Pakistan on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia (A/C.1/45/L.18).

We have been encouraged by the recent positive trends in the international political climate and the various initiatives that have been taken in the field of disarmament. Nevertheless, regional conflicts and tensions continue to exist in many parts of the world, endangering peace and security. The relevance and importance of our proposal for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

South Asia cannot therefore be over-emphasized. This draft resolution, which has been motivated by the sponsors' abiding commitment to the process of the universal elimination of nuclear weapons, also reflects the realistic assessment that, pending the achievement of a nuclear-weapon-free world, it would be advantageous to keep as many regions of the world free of nuclear weapons as possible. The creation of such zones has been recognized in the Final Document of the first special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament as an important interim measure pending general and complete disarmament, which remains the ultimate goal and objective of all States.

The Movement of Non-Aligned Countries has also lent its support to the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones. The Declaration adopted at the conclusion of the Ninth Conference of Heads of State or Government of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, in September 1989, expressed support for the establishment and strengthening of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world, which could contribute significantly to the strengthening of international security.

The sponsors recognize the vital importance of the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in the move towards general and complete disarmament. Such zones are not an end in themselves. Nor are they intended as a substitute for, but rather as a complement to, the global and comprehensive approach to nuclear disarmament. They also serve as an important confidence-building measure. Furthermore, our shared goal of universal nuclear disarmament would receive an impetus from the establishment of such zones.

We believe that the necessary conditions exist in South Asia to enable the countries of the region to move towards the objective of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. All countries of the region share the commitment to keep the area free of nuclear weapons. They have made unilateral declarations, at the highest

(Mr. Kamal, Pakistan)

levels, pledging themselves not to acquire, develop or manufacture nuclear weapons. They have supported all international efforts for nuclear disarmament and for the complete elimination of these awesome weapons of mass destruction.

Pakistan's views on the subject are contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/45/462), dated 11 September 1990, entitled "Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia".

Pakistan, for its part, has time and again declared its intention not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes only. The proposal for the creation of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia is thus also an earnest of Pakistan's sincere desire to keep our region permanently free of nuclear weapons. Over the years we have made a number of other proposals to ensure the permanent denuclearization of South Asia. It is our firmly held belief that a regional approach would be the most effective means of preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in our region, with all States of the region accepting equal and non-discriminatory obligations. It is in this context that Pakistan has proposed a bilateral or regional nuclear-test-ban agreement in South Asia and the convening of a conference on non-proliferation in South Asia on the basis of equitable and non-discriminatory principles.

Draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.18, on the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia, has been prepared along the same lines as resolution 44/109 adopted with the overwhelming support of the States Members of the United Nations last year. In its preamble the conviction is reiterated that the establishment of nuclear-weapon-free zones in various regions of the world is one of the measures that can contribute effectively to the objective of non-proliferation and will assist in the strengthening of the security of the States of the region against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons. In the preamble the General Assembly

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would recall the declarations issued by Governments of South Asian States reaffirming their undertaking not to acquire or manufacture nuclear weapons and to devote their nuclear programmes exclusively to the economic and social advancement of their peoples.

In the operative part, the concept of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia is endorsed, and the States of South Asia are urged to continue to make all possible efforts to establish a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia and to refrain, in the meantime, from any action contrary to that objective. The Secretary-General is requested to ascertain the views of the States of the region on the issue and to promote consultations among them with a view to exploring the best possibilities of furthering the efforts for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia.

It is our hope that the adoption of the draft resolution will provide further encouragement to the States in our region to move towards the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in South Asia. We therefore hope that the international community will once again lend its broad support to the draft resolution.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Sweden, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49.

Ms. THEORIN (Sweden): International tensions are rapidly subsiding, as is the threat of cataclysmic global warfare. This reassuring state of affairs is, however, paralleled by a growing realization of the urgency of addressing other equally debilitating global problems. These include hunger, poverty, illiteracy and environmental deterioration, which constitutes a fundamental barrier to a decent future for mankind. Against this background, the potential for utilizing human resources allocated to military activities to protect the environment, in both developing and industrialized countries, merits further exploration, particularly in the present international climate.

I have asked to speak today in order to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49 on behalf of the delegations of Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian SSR, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Suriname, Venezuela, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia and Sweden.

The object of this draft resolution is to chart potential uses, for environmental endeavours, of assets such as know-how, technology, infrastructure and production currently allocated to military activities.

Pursuant to this draft resolution, the Secretary-General would be requested, making use of existing resources, to carry out a study of such uses and to transmit the study to next year's session of the General Assembly. Examples of such military assets, which may be either high technology or low technology, or know-how, are: satellite technologies, for example in the field of remote sensing, with potential applications in, for instance, agricultural monitoring and planning; research capacity in, for instance, laboratories and computer facilities to detect and remedy environmental degradation; military equipment, personnel and know-how

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

for the handling and disposal of toxic, radioactive or otherwise harmful materials, including the destruction of weapons; organizational capacity to train, educate and mobilize manpower; personnel, know-how and military equipment for national or international disaster relief; existing networks of the military sector, universities and other institutions for the dissemination of information and data; and industrial and technological capacity in the fields of energy, transportation, emission control and field engineering.

In view of the accelerating preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, it is envisaged that the Secretary-General may make relevant findings of the study available to the Preparatory Committee without awaiting formal endorsement of the study by the General Assembly.

Speaking now on behalf of my own delegation only, I would like to take this opportunity to elaborate a little further on the thinking underlying the draft resolution.

It stands to reason that the military sector is well equipped for solving certain categories of environmental problems, including both natural catastrophes and other types of large-scale disasters, or the handling and disposal of highly toxic, radioactive or otherwise harmful substances. Actual examples of national provisions for such functions are numerous.

As far as research and development are concerned, I would like to mention here that in Sweden there is already an incipient Centre for Environmental Research, in which the National Defence Research Establishment, the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, the National Institute of Occupational Health and the University of Umea co-operate.

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

By their very nature, environmental problems tend to be multi-disciplinary. Therefore, the study of current environmental problems may require co-operation between difference types of scientific competence. In the light of what has been said before, there are issues in which military research and development have a distinct comparative advantage, which has been the rationale for the co-operative undertaking in environmental research in Sweden.

Also, aside from the Centre for Environmental Research, there is pertinent Swedish experience of how military research and development assets, or techniques developed in the military sphere, may be utilized for environmental purposes, including studies, which in turn may provide guidance for improved protection of the environment.

One such endeavour, which is already the subject of international collaboration, is the tracing of toxic discharges, a capacity which is dependent both on the ability to detect and identify toxic substances and on techniques to follow their paths from the source.

Sensors developed for military purposes may be put to use in environmental research. Here I have in mind, for instance, special forms of radar which are capable of looking through dense foliage and even to some depth in the ground, and infra-red sensors which may detect very slight colour changes and thereby give early indications of changing growth conditions for crops and other types of vegetation.

As with the verification of compliance with international disarmament agreements, the need for a system for the reliable collection and transmission of large quantities of data for the verification of international environmental agreements is expected to grow. Expertise acquired under military auspices may have a role here.

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

Military resources for toxicological research are also being put to use to study both organisms occurring in nature, such as blue-green algae, and new substances introduced by human activities. In part related to this line of research there is also a study, conducted by a group on combustion research, of the emissions from waste combustion, in particular various nitric oxides.

It is universally recognized that disarmament and the protection of the environment are two of the key challenges facing the international community in the 1990s. Each of these two major issues is, in its own right, a top priority internationally at present: disarmament, in part thanks to the radically improved international climate; the environment, accentuated by the preparations for the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. This has been decisive for the timing of the submission of this draft resolution.

In order to avert possible misunderstandings, let me, before I conclude, clarify that the draft resolution is not directly geared towards institutionalized conversion per se. The language of the draft resolution is meant not to prejudge eventual institutional rearrangements; it is meant to be neutral with regard to structural implications.

The ambition of the sponsors of the draft resolution is to chart potential environmentally beneficial uses of resources, such as know-how, technology, infrastructure and production, currently allocated to military activities. In the light of the radical changes in the international atmosphere in the past year or two, it is a very modest ambition.

I hope that the proposal will elicit broad support. I commend draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49 for adoption by the Committee.

Mrs. CARVALHO (Mexico) (interpretation from Spanish): We thank the representative of Sweden, Ambassador Theorin, for her excellent introduction of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, entitled "Charting potential uses of resources allocated to military activities for civilian endeavours to protect the environment", of which Mexico is one of the sponsors.

The issue of the redirection of resources allocated to weapons production has been the object of consideration by the United Nations for several decades and has attracted increasing attention from its Members in the light of the improvement in the international political situation.

(Mrs. Carvalho, Mexico)

In 1962 the General Assembly adopted resolution 1837 (XVII), entitled "Declaration on the conversion to peaceful needs of the resources released by disarmament", which states:

> "Convinced that disarmament and the conversion of huge resources to peaceful uses would open up vast opportunities for the development of peaceful co-operation and trade among States on the basis of equality and mutual benefit, that the expansion of international economic exchange and mutual assistance would be beneficial to all countries, both big and small and both economically less developed and highly developed ..."

Industrial over-capacity in the arms field should be seen as a threat to international peace, for it entails increased arms exports, particularly to areas of conflict, and consequently a diversion of resources from development.*

We believe that the activities carried out within the United Nations system should take greater account of the relationship between disarmament and development. Such an approach needs to be global and aimed at giving greater security to the world. However, in recent years there has been growing concern about conditions on our planet and about the need to achieve development without undermining the environment.

An appropriate strategy for the future should contain solid foundations to enable us to reach the twenty-first century in improved circumstances; in so doing, we shall have to focus on three essential interrelated problems - namely, disarmament, development and the environment.

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* Mr. Martynov (Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

(Mrs. Carvalho, Mexico)

Politically it is possible to attain the first of these elements. Prospects for significant reductions in weapons and armed forces lead us to hope that the resources released as a result can be redirected towards development - development that will offer a better life to all without added risk to the environment, whose deterioration to a large extent has been attributed to the industrialized countries.

To facilitate an exchange of opinion and experience on the conversion of resources and to begin as quickly as possible a study of potential uses of resources currently allocated to military activities for promoting the protection of the environment is an initiative that will certainly contribute to efforts already under way to attack the major world problems.

That is why Mexico has joined the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49.

The CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Russian): I now call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I should like to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/45/L.12, Ghana; L.13, Hungary; L.15, Ghana and Senegal; L.21/Rev.1, Brazil and Argentina; L.22, Chile; L.23, Chile; L.30, Ghana; L.31, Mauritius; L.38, Czechoslovakia; L.44, Norway; L.46, Costa Rica; L.51, Senegal; and L.53, Hungary.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
31st meeting
held on
8 November 1990
at 10 a.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 31st MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RANA (Nepal)

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- Consideration of and action on all disarmament agenda items (continued)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 45 TO 66 AND 155 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON ALL DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Sweden, who will introduce the draft decision in document A/C.1/45/L.8.

Ms. THEORIN (Sweden): I have asked to speak on sub-item (i), "Naval armaments and disarmament", of agenda item 56, entitled "General and complete disarmament".

My delegation has for many years followed developments in the naval field very closely. In the United Nations context, Sweden initially proposed, and subsequently took part in, the study on the naval arms race, which was submitted to the General Assembly in 1985. The Swedish delegation has also taken a keen interest in the consideration of naval armaments and disarmament in the United Nations Disarmament Commission, where the matter has been on the agenda for five consecutive substantive sessions.

While the Disarmament Commission has now concluded its consideration of the item, my Government would see merit in retaining it on the agenda of the General Assembly in the coming years. My delegation has therefore submitted the draft decision in document A/C.1/45/L.8, whereby an item entitled "General and complete disarmament: Naval armaments and disarmament" would be included in the draft agenda of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. We commend the draft decision for adoption without a vote.

I take this opportunity to draw attention to the fact that, as requested, a memorandum under the item "General and complete disarmament", entitled "Naval armaments and disarmament: Memorandum by Sweden", has just been circulated within the Committee. The memorandum is annexed to document A/C.1/45/8. Let me now merely mention a few of its highlights.

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

More than every fourth nuclear warhead, all in all approximately 15,000, is considered to be earmarked for deployment at sea. It is estimated that operational nuclear-capable platforms number approximately 3,500: some 350 surface vessels, 400 submarines and 2,750 aircraft.

The matter of naval nuclear weapons has global ramifications. This is why my delegation holds that it should be duly considered by the international community and, to begin with, would like to see it included in the agenda of the next session of the General Assembly.

Approximately one third, or about 5,000, of all sea-based nuclear weapons can be estimated to belong to the category "substrategic", comprising a variety of nuclear weapons intended for targets at sea, as well as nuclear-armed cruise missiles and other nuclear weapons intended for attacks against targets on land.

The great number of substrategic nuclear weapons on board warships is a cause of grave concern, which is accentuated by the policy pursued by nuclear-weapon States neither to confirm nor to deny the presence or absence of nuclear weapons on board any particular ship at any particular time. This practice has caused profound public concern in many countries, especially when warships from a nuclear-weapon State, claiming innocent passage, pass through the territorial waters of these countries, or when they call at their ports. The policy neither to confirm nor to deny does not build confidence between States; instead, it undermines confidence. Whatever its raison d'etre may have been in the past, this practice is an anachronism; it is not only outdated, it is dangerous and should be abandoned.

Sweden whole-heartedly welcomed the achievement of the 1987 Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty), which

(Ms. Theorin, Sweden)

provided for the complete elimination of land-based intermediate-range nuclear missiles, so that now approximately two thirds of these missiles have actually been destroyed.

My Government also welcomes recent progress in the bilateral Soviet-American negotiations on reductions of strategic nuclear weapons, be they land-based, airborne, or sea-based. We further note with satisfaction the proposal for new Soviet-American negotiations on reductions of shorter-range nuclear-weapon systems.

The fact remains, however, that substrategic naval nuclear weapons have yet to be properly addressed in disarmament negotiations. Sea-based nuclear weapons intended for targets on land pose special problems in relation to agreements involving land and/or air forces. Such agreements must not be circumvented by compensatory deployments at sea.

Sweden calls upon all States to take unilateral measures and/or to initiate negotiations to ban all nuclear weapons on all ships and submarines other than those classes specifically designated by agreement, as an interim measure in anticipation of the complete denuclearization of naval forces. All sea-launched cruise missiles with nuclear warheads should in this context be completely banned.

Such measures would conform with the express agreement between the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and the United States of America to conduct bilateral negotiations which ultimately "should lead to the complete elimination of nuclear arms everywhere".

Sweden now proposes negotiations, bilaterally or multilaterally, on the prohibition of non-strategic nuclear weapons at sea.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Brazil, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.54.

Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil) (interpretation from Spanish): The Brazilian delegation has the honour of introducing draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.54, entitled "United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean". It is sponsored by Tunisia on behalf of the Group of African States, by Brazil on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, and by China, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Viet Nam and Yemen.

The draft resolution is designed primarily to strengthen the important role of the regional centres in the attainment of the objectives of the World Disarmament Campaign.

The dramatic changes which have occurred in the international arena have highlighted the value of dialogue, understanding and co-operation as essential instruments in relations among States. It is precisely this spirit that for some time now has inspired the promoters of the activities of the regional centres.

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

Their work constitutes an important element in promoting initiatives and proposals for confidence-building measures and mutual co-operation among the States of each region. The regional centres have thus become promoters of international peace and security by means of specific action at the regional level. The work of these bodies, which promote understanding and a narrowing of differences and open and frank discussion and which stimulate the commitment to peace of the States of the region, in itself deserves our gratitude.

This draft resolution contains, in the first preambular paragraph, a reference to the mandates conferred by the General Assembly on each of the regional centres. Similarly, in the preamble to the draft resolution, the General Assembly would express gratitude for the financial assistance received by the centres from States Members of this Organization and also the contributions to their trust funds made by various international governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Furthermore, in the sixth preambular paragraph, reference is made to recent activities of the centres, which have been characterized by broad co-operation on the part of all the participants in the seminars, conferences and discussions that have been held, highlighting the clear commitment of the States of each region to identify solutions for the problems affecting their respective regions.

In the preamble the General Assembly would also take note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 44/117 F. In this regard, it is a particular pleasure to recognize the enthusiastic support of the Secretary-General for the work of the centres, particularly through the appointment this year of the Director of the Regional Centre in Lomé and the arrangements made for the appointment of Directors of the Centres in Lima and Kathmandu in the near future. We are sure that these measures

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

will constitute an important factor in the efficiency with which the centres will carry out their future activities.

With regard to the operative part of the draft resolution, in paragraph 1 encouragement is given to the regional centres to continue to play their important role, by means of activities which have the mutual agreement and interest of the States of each region, within the broader context of the World Disarmament Campaign.

In paragraph 2 the Secretary-General is commended for his firm support of all the centres, and he is requested to continue his efforts to pursue the full implementation of the provisions of resolution 44/117 F.

Paragraph 3 contains an appeal to Member States and also to international governmental and non-governmental organizations to continue to contribute to the trust funds of all the regional centres and thus to ensure the efficient functioning of those institutions.

As will be seen from a reading of the draft we are presenting to the Committee today, this text, sponsored by the Group of African States and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and by an impressive number of Asian States, should naturally command a consensus, and therefore we hope that it will be adopted without a vote.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of Hungary, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.38.

Mr. TOTH (Hungary): On behalf of the delegations of Australia, Austria, the Byelorussian SSR, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Germany, Hungary, Iran, the Netherlands, Sweden and the Ukrainian SSR, I have the honour to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.38, entitled "Prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities".

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

The list of sponsors clearly indicates that the issue of the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities and the resulting massive release of radioactivity is a continuous source of concern for countries of different regions, of different size and with differing population density. They commonly share the belief that the issue of a ban on attacks on certain nuclear facilities is an independent problem, requiring an autonomous method of searching for solutions. In recent years numerous resolutions of the United Nations General Assembly and the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency, as well as documents of the Third and Fourth Review Conferences of the States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, have addressed the problem.

The present draft resolution is submitted in the hope that the question asked more and more frequently about the issue is not whether there is a need for such a prohibition but how it can be achieved. The draft sets this forth in a moderate and reasonable manner and tries to offer a way out of the existing impasse.

Up to now no substantial progress has been achieved, in multilateral disarmament negotiations, on the issue of the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities. Through long years of debate the Conference on Disarmament has not been able to work out more than a fragile framework of a convention, with no progress on the basic substantial problems. The parallel handling of both the question of radiological weapons in the traditional sense and the issue of the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities proved to be unsuccessful.

Some recent positive developments, however, raise our expectations that prospects for a prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities might be changing favourably. East-West confrontation is fading away quickly, giving way to a new form of partnership and co-operation. The Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident and the Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

or Radiological Emergency are ample proofs of the growing recognition of the extreme dangers posed by major releases of radioactive material. In the field of disarmament, the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles and the strategic arms reduction negotiations are politically important steps that hold out promising prospects. With an agreement on conventional armed forces in Europe soon in place and negotiations on tactical nuclear weapons in sight, the raison d'être for keeping some dreadful military options still open is fast vanishing. It is no mere accident, but a reflection of these positive trends, that the question of the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities has been dealt with in a forward-looking manner at the review conferences on the non-proliferation Treaty.

The draft resolution that is now presented builds upon the relevant achievements of the Fourth Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Participants in the Conference reiterated that parties are both entitled to enjoy and obliged to respect the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy. This provision and the responsibilities of the nuclear-weapon States towards those countries which have undertaken not to develop nuclear weapons imply the unhampered functioning of safeguarded nuclear facilities as well. Many delegations shared the view that providing such assurances to the States parties would strengthen the régime itself and make it more attractive for States not yet parties to that arrangement.

Despite the lack of agreement on a final declaration, the Conference witnessed an intensive debate on that issue. The general approach of the participating States was fairly receptive, which indicates the possibility of further progress. The draft of the final document addressed the issue in a forward-oriented and constructive manner, inter alia, by inviting the participants to consider the idea

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

of a separate diplomatic conference in order to strengthen the existing regulations of international humanitarian law. It is worth recalling that there has been a consensus in favour of this part of the draft, a fact regarded by many as a significant development. We should like to preserve that consensus and make key elements of it more and more acceptable to countries which happened to be outside the framework of the Conference.

(Mr. Toth, Hungary)

On behalf of the sponsors let me express once again our commitment to the issue of the protection of nuclear facilities and reiterate the conviction that in the present circumstances the early solution of this question is both necessary and possible. We believe that the idea of an autonomous diplomatic conference, combined with such important steps as bilateral and multilateral confidence-building measures and the review of military policies should be given a chance to prove its timeliness. We also believe that a thorough consideration of this idea will open up hopeful prospects for finding appropriate solutions to the problem of prohibiting attacks on nuclear facilities which could lead to massive destruction because of the release of radioactivity.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the representative of China to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/45/L.6 and L.7.

Mr. HOU Zhitong (China) (interpretation from Chinese): I wish to introduce to the First Committee two draft resolutions submitted by the Chinese delegation - namely, draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.7, under agenda item 56 (e), concerning nuclear disarmament; and draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.6, under agenda item 56 (d), concerning conventional disarmament.

According to resolutions of the General Assembly and its special sessions on disarmament, while general and complete disarmament is the fundamental target of the international community, nuclear disarmament enjoys priority on the disarmament agenda, and conventional disarmament is also an important task in the field of disarmament. This is affirmed and emphasized once again in the draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, which was formulated by the United Nations Disarmament Commission this year and will soon be adopted by the current session of the General Assembly.

The Government of China has all along pursued an independent foreign policy of peace and has made, together with other members of the international community,

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

unswerving efforts to seek general and complete disarmament and safeguard international peace and security. In order to promote the realization of nuclear and conventional disarmament, China has for four years running submitted draft resolutions concerning nuclear and conventional disarmament, which have been adopted by consensus by the General Assembly, thus reflecting the common aspiration of the international community on these two major issues. On behalf of the Chinese delegation, I wish to take this opportunity to express once again our sincere thanks to all other delegations for their support, co-operation and joint endeavours over the years.

At present the world is undergoing profound and tremendous changes and is faced with new challenges and opportunities. Since the last session of the General Assembly, and thanks to bilateral, regional and global endeavours, further progress has been made or is being made in the fields of nuclear and conventional disarmament. This is most welcome. At the same time, we should be aware of the fact that the world today is not tranquil and the arms race is far from being checked. In the field of disarmament, important tasks have yet to be fulfilled and the international community still has a long way to go. All this requires unremitting efforts and further contributions by all Member States. As is correctly pointed out in the draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, in the new decade

> "In the nuclear field, we must continue urgently to seek early reductions in, and the eventual elimination of, nuclear weapons" (A/45/42, para. 35, quoting para. 10.4)

and

> "In the conventional field, we must seek reductions in arms and armed forces in all areas of the world and, in particular, where levels of concentrations of armaments are highest." (ibid.)

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

Therefore, this year China has decided to submit once again two draft resolutions concerning nuclear and conventional disarmament respectively. We sincerely hope, in concerted efforts with all other Member States and building upon what has been achieved, to try to maintain and further enhance the positive trend of disarmament and strive for more and greater progress.

In order to attain this common goal, the Chinese delegation has, in an active and practical manner and with a constructive and co-operative attitude, carried out extensive consultations with various countries. Long before submitting these two draft resolutions we had sought the opinions of various parties concerning them. We tried our best to accept all positive and reasonable suggestions. This has helped to make the content of these two draft resolutions positive and substantial, as well as balanced and practical, thereby better reflecting the actual progress and present situation in the field of disarmament. The two draft resolutions, namely, documents A/C.1/45/L.6 and A/C.1/45/L.7, which are before representatives, are the result of repeated consultations between China and various parties.

It is clear that these two texts have many meritorious features. For example, both of them have been formulated on the basis of, and without substantial changes in, the two resolutions adopted by consensus at the last session of the General Assembly. Their purposes and themes are exactly the same as last year. Secondly, the new texts are in conformity with the principled position of the non-aligned States and the basic contents of the relevant draft resolutions submitted by them. The new drafts endorse the results achieved by the United Nations Disarmament Commission this year and adopt terms used in that Commission's consensus documents.

Furthermore, these draft resolutions give expression to the new changes in Soviet-United States and East-West relations, and take note of and welcome the further progress made in the bilateral negotiations on reduction of strategic weapons as well as in the negotiations on conventional disarmament in Europe. The

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

wording of the operative part of the draft resolution on conventional disarmament is also improved.

I should like to state that in support of the efforts to reform and rationalize the work of the First Committee we shall consider, if circumstances permit in the future, staggering these two draft resolutions on a two-year basis. This is reflected in the last operative paragraphs in both texts now before the Committee.

(Mr. Hou Zhitong, China)

Facts over the past few years have proved that China submits these two draft resolutions for the purpose of working with the international community to promote further progress on the two important issues of nuclear and conventional disarmament with a view to making new contributions to the maintenance of international peace and security in a joint effort. We hope that our good will and co-operative spirit will be met with full understanding and a positive response from various parties and that these two draft resolutions will enjoy continued support by all delegations this year and be adopted again by consensus by the Committee at the current session of the General Assembly so as to demonstrate the common aspiration and determination of the international community.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Yugoslavia to introduce draft resolutions A/C.1/45/L.4 and A/C.1/45/L.5.

Mr. KOTEVSKI (Yugoslavia): It is my great pleasure, on behalf of the members of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, to introduce two draft resolutions, entitled "Relationship between disarmament and development" (A/C.1/45/L.4) and "Bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations" (A/C.1/45/L.5).

The proposed draft resolution on the relationship between disarmament and development (A/C.1/45/L.4) is primarily of a procedural nature. Its purpose is to welcome the report of the Secretary-General and the actions taken in accordance with the Final Document of the International Conference on the Relationship between Disarmament and Development and to request the Secretary-General to continue to take action aimed at implementing the action programme adopted at the Conference in 1987.

In the draft resolution the Secretary-General is requested to submit a report to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session and to include this item in the provisional agenda of the next session.

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

The non-aligned countries, on whose behalf I am introducing this draft resolution, attach exceptional importance to this issue, particularly in view of the current international circumstances, which provide realistic prospects for further implementation of the action programme adopted at the International Conference. In that context I would like to point out once again that the Heads of State or Government stressed in the Declaration of the ninth summit of non-aligned countries in Belgrade that

> "The close relationship between disarmament and development must be seen as a contribution to the wider efforts to give precedence to economic development over the priorities imposed by the dangerous and irrational race for military might". (A/44/551, p. 10, para. 5)

Since this is an issue of exceptional importance, we earnestly hope that the Committee will adopt the proposed text without a vote.

In introducing the other draft resolution (A/C.1/45/L.5) related to the bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations between the Soviet Union and the United States, I should like to emphasize that this question has been at the centre of the attention of the non-aligned countries ever since the inception of our Movement. The great importance we have always attached to it is attested to by the fact that, as long ago as at their first summit Conference in Belgrade in the now-distant year of 1961, the non-aligned countries sent their first messages to Prime Minister Khrushchev and President Kennedy, in which they, inter alia, requested the Soviet Union and the United States to

> "renew their negotiations so as to remove the danger of war in the world and enable mankind to embark upon the road of peace".

By the signing, ratification and implementation of the Treaty on the Elimination of Intermediate-Range and Shorter-Range Missiles (INF Treaty), and by other steps they have taken in the field of bilateral disarmament, the Soviet Union

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

and the United States have demonstrated that they have indeed embarked upon that road. Their negotiations on disarmament should therefore be welcomed and commended.

In the draft resolution we place particular emphasis on the importance of the joint statement made by the Presidents of the Soviet Union and the United States on 1 June 1990, wherein they reiterated their resolve to conclude the START agreement as soon as possible. We also emphasize the importance of the signing and ratification of the Protocols to the 1974 and 1976 nuclear-test-ban Treaties.

The draft resolution deals also with the need for reaching new agreements in other fields of disarmament, particularly in connection with a nuclear-test ban and the prevention of an arms race in outer space.

At the same time, besides the indisputably positive effects those negotiations have on the overall process of disarmament, the non-aligned countries on whose behalf I am speaking wish at this time to point out again the inseparable link between bilateral and multilateral negotiations; they should be complementary and each should promote the other. In the opinion of the non-aligned countries, disarmament cannot be achieved unless all countries, irrespective of their size and might, are included in this process.

Bearing this in mind as well as the aforementioned facts, we call upon the Soviet Union and the United States, in addition to continuing the process that has been initiated, to inform other States Members of the United Nations regularly of all new substantive developments and breakthroughs in the process of bilateral disarmament.

In conclusion, I should like to point out that we are continuing intensive consultations with the group of countries sponsoring draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.35 and other interested delegations. We hope that our further joint efforts will bear fruit and that we shall be able to agree this year on a single text, for we believe

(Mr. Kotevski, Yugoslavia)

that in the present international circumstances, and in view of the comprehensive changes, the international community ought to have a joint position on such an important issue as the bilateral nuclear-arms negotiations.

The CHAIRMAN: I call now on the representative of Peru, who will introduce draft decision A/C.1/45/L.48.

Mr. BELLINA (Peru) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation has the honour of submitting to the First Committee draft decision A/C.1/45/L.48, entitled "Conventional disarmament on a regional scale".

The international community has, we believe, honoured Peru by explicitly recognizing, on various occasions, my country's peace-loving nature, and in particular Peruvian initiatives to promote regional disarmament. These fall within the purview of the deeply held commitment of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean to the principles and norms of the Charter of the United Nations and the firm will of the Latin Americans to eliminate for ever the use or the threat of the use of force, which disrupts relations between States.

This has been demonstrated by important milestones, such as the Ayacucho Declaration of 1974, the Esquipulas Agreements, the Acapulco Commitment, the Galapagos Declaration, and the Machupicchu Act of the Presidents of the Andean countries.

Our region is not among the most armed. We can say with pride that in Latin America and the Caribbean there are no sophisticated instruments of mass destruction and death that have brought mankind to the brink of annihilation. Our problems are of a different nature.

Hence, it is unacceptable that while we Latin Americans are struggling to provide our peoples with a decent life, powerful weapons of mass destruction are being developed and perfected in other parts of the world, swallowing up the

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

financial resources necessary to the development and well-being of all peoples. Development, peace, well-being and security are diametrically opposed to the dangerous arms race. This is a contradiction that knows no limits, and it would be an error to try to restrict it to a single region in a closely interdependent world.

That is why we view with deep satisfaction the special recognition accorded recently to the processes of regional disarmament. It is this recognition that has enabled my delegation to work closely with the delegation of Belgium in preparing the text that has been issued as document A/C.1/45/L.44. We believe that this effort restates our goal of greater co-operation and joint activities in the future.

(Mr. Bellina, Peru)

Similarly, and on the basis of the principles and objectives that have been mentioned, my country is co-sponsoring the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/45/L.51. That draft resolution was submitted by the delegation of Pakistan, a country with which Peru has on many occasions had the honour of making common cause, particularly in the field of regional disarmament.

It is in this context that Peru is submitting the draft decision contained in document A/C.1/45/L.48, which is designed to keep the topic of conventional disarmament at the regional level on the provisional agenda for the next session of the General Assembly. We have taken into consideration the important developments that have occurred in this field and the growing possibility of this item's being dealt with at the next session of the Disarmament Commission. This would enable us to formulate the relevant document on the basis of that progress.

Similarly, by this draft decision the General Assembly would welcome the report of the Secretary-General containing the views that various States have expressed on the item, and would invite those States that had not yet done so to convey their views to the Secretary-General. It would be very helpful to this Committee in its work, as well as to the Disarmament Commission in the work that it is doing, if this item were included on the agenda for 1991.

My delegation is convinced of the importance of the views of all Member States in this connection as an essential element in the international community's efforts to give well-balanced and fair consideration to all aspects of conventional disarmament in the regional process.

As the Committee can see, the text that my delegation is submitting is procedural in nature. Therefore, we hope that it will be adopted without a vote. We intend next year to assume the same sincere and respectful attitude in working with other delegations on the preparation of a text that will reflect the broadest possible participation.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the representative of Iraq to introduce the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/45/L.11.

Mr. MALIK (Iraq) (interpretation from Arabic): Under item 58 (c) of the agenda - Prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons, it is my privilege to introduce, on behalf of the delegations of Jordan, Yemen and Iraq, the draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/45/L.11.

Although man began to identify the dangers of radioactivity, through exposure to its effects, since the discovery of X-rays - long before the beginning of the atomic age in 1938 and the resultant awareness of the phenomenon of radioactivity - awareness of those dangers to man and the environment increased tremendously with the rise in radioactivity following the rush to conduct nuclear tests in the atmosphere in most parts of the globe.

That increasing concern over the effects of radioactivity on the health of man and on the safety of the environment was one of the important factors that led to the prohibition of nuclear testing in the atmosphere.

The efforts of the international community in that respect did not stop at that. They included the quest, in the context of multilateral negotiations in the Conference on Disarmament and in the United Nations, to conclude an international convention to prohibit the development, production, stockpiling and use of radiological weapons as such weapons are extremely injurious and non-discriminatory instruments of mass destruction.

Those efforts were coupled with the increasing awareness that such a convention would be incomplete if it were not to take into account the prohibition of military attacks against operational nuclear facilities that contain radioactive nuclear materials, as such attacks, inevitably, would cause the release into the atmosphere of huge amounts of radioactive material and thus cause a situation that

(Mr. Malik, Iraq)

would be similar to the consequences of a nuclear war, even if the attack were made with conventional weapons.

Sweden has crystallized this international conviction in the proposal, submitted at the Conference on Disarmament in 1980, in which it called for widening of the framework of the Geneva Protocol of 1977, annexed to the Geneva Convention of 1949, to include the prohibition of attacks on nuclear facilities, on the grounds that such attacks would result in the release of dangerous materials.

In the aftermath of the military attack by Israel against the Tammuz reactor in 1981, the group of experts appointed by the United Nations Secretary-General presented their report in 1983. In that report they stated the following:

> "intentional destruction, by either conventional or nuclear weapons, of nuclear power plants and some other kinds of nuclear installations might cause the release into the environment of huge amounts of radioactive material and may result in radioactive contamination of large areas.
>
> "An attack on nuclear facilities could have grave consequences not only for the State subjected to such an attack, but also for neighbouring States, since the radioactive material released by an attack might travel far beyond the borders of the State attacked." (A/38/337, p. 32)

The draft resolution contained in document A/C.1/45/L.11 is very similar to that which was adopted by the First Committee last year. The fact that the same issue is being put forward again this year is an indication of our serious concern over the lack of progress at the Conference on Disarmament towards the prohibition of military attacks against nuclear facilities. We hope that this concern will be reflected in the First Committee by adoption of this draft resolution.

Operative paragraph 1 of the draft resolution reaffirms that armed attacks of any kind against nuclear facilities are tantamount to the use of radiological

(Mr. Malik, Iraq)

weapons. This is a fact that became crystal clear after the deplorable incident at Chernobyl. On that occasion, the whole world experienced the transboundary effects of environmental pollution in varying degrees.

Operative paragraph 2 once again requests the Conference on Disarmament to intensify further its efforts to conclude at the earliest possible date an agreement prohibiting armed attacks against nuclear facilities.

(Mr. Malik, Iraq)

Operative paragraph 3 requests again the International Atomic Energy Agency to provide the Conference on Disarmament with the technical studies that could facilitate the conclusion of such an agreement.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the body that is technically qualified to present such studies. It has wide experience and expertise as a result of the role it has played in following up the different nuclear incidents that have taken place in numerous parts of the industrialized world. After the Chernobyl incident it was able to formulate two international conventions in record time - that is, the convention on early notification of nuclear accidents and the convention on the provision of assistance in the case of a nuclear accident or radiological emergency. Therefore, it would be unreasonable not to use such valuable expertise to help the work of the Conference on Disarmament.

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I wish to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/45/L.15, Costa Rica; L.46, Singapore; L.49, Costa Rica; L.51, Turkey and Norway; L.53, Portugal; and L.54, New Zealand.

The meeting rose at 11.35 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-FIFTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
32nd meeting
held on
Thursday, 8 November 1990
at 3 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 32nd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. RANA (Nepal)

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- Statement by the Chairman

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The meeting was called to order at 3.40 p.m.

AGENDA ITEMS 45 TO 66 AND 155 (continued)

CONSIDERATION OF AND ACTION ON ALL DISARMAMENT AGENDA ITEMS

The CHAIRMAN: The first speaker this afternoon is the representative of France, who will introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53.

Mr. AMIGUES (France) (interpretation from French): The delegation of France wishes to introduce draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53, under sub-item (e), "United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research", of agenda item 60, entitled "Review of the implementation of the recommendations and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its tenth special session. The draft resolution is sponsored by Algeria, Argentina, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Cameroon, China, Ecuador, Egypt, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, the Philippines, Poland, Romania, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia and France.

The main purpose of the draft resolution is to note with pleasure the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR). UNIDIR was established by General Assembly resolution 34/83 M, of 11 December 1979, and began its operations on 1 October 1980, almost exactly 10 years ago. For the sponsors of draft resolution L.53, UNIDIR's tenth anniversary provides an opportunity to show our satisfaction with the Institute and recognize that it has carried out well the task entrusted to it.

Still a young body - for at 10 years of age one is barely even an adolescent - UNIDIR has already won very wide support. Indeed, its diverse activities cannot fail to arouse the interest of those working in the area of disarmament. The importance of its independent research, which complements that of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, is faithfully reflected in its report (A/45/392) on its activities.

(Mr. Amigues, France)

That broad support, which goes beyond the growing number of countries that make voluntary contributions to UNIDIR, is naturally reflected in draft resolution L.53.

The draft resolution has a second objective, which is related to the first. We take the opportunity offered by UNIDIR's tenth anniversary to request it to undertake, with the assistance of independent experts, research on the economic aspects of disarmament. It is time we had clear, well-founded and substantiated data to guide our thinking on this particularly important, topical subject. This is the import of operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution.

The General Assembly entrusts research to UNIDIR in keeping with the latter's statute, in particular article 2, paragraph 3, and article 7, paragraph 3. There are precedents for this; I am thinking of, among others, resolutions 37/84, of 1982, on the relationship between disarmament and development, and 38/181, of 1983, on implementation of the Declaration on the Denuclearization of Africa. Thus, there is no impediment to our entrusting such research to UNIDIR. It should be understood, however, that such a request must remain an exception.

We gather that some, mindful of budgetary considerations, have questions about the cost of the research. The latest estimates indicate that it should represent a tiny sum in absolute terms but a large amount for UNIDIR, whose budget for 1991, as set forth on pages 17 to 20 of its report (A/45/392), amounts to $1,615,000. Consequently, it appears to us to be essential that assistance in financing the research be provided from the regular budget of the United Nations.

The 26 sponsors of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53, which represent the diversity of our international community, hope that the draft resolution will be adopted by consensus.

Mr. AGAYEV (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): Today our delegation and the delegations of France and Sri Lanka are introducing a draft resolution (A/C.1/45/L.53) to mark the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

In the first decade of its existence the Institute has earned a solid reputation and growing international prestige as a major centre of research on disarmament and world security issues. This has been due to the extensive and serious work carried out by UNIDIR ever since the time of confrontation, when it was already seeking universally acceptable approaches to the central issues of international development.

UNIDIR's major analytical studies, on such subjects as the risk of accidental nuclear conflict, various verification issues, concepts of national security and many other disarmament problems, are well known. In the context of the Institute's activities, we cannot fail to mention its fellowships programme, which enables scholars from the developing countries to carry out research in the field of disarmament.

It is a particularly important fact that the work of UNIDIR, by virtue of its organizational principles and methods, which rely on broad contacts with research centres and experts in various parts of the world, offers valuable experience in reaching consensus and pooling creative efforts on disarmament and issues of international security.

In today's drastically changed international environment the Institute is enjoying even wider opportunities for carrying out its programme. However, the post-confrontation period is also posing new problems. One such problem has to do with the social and economic implications of disarmament. As an international research centre capable of addressing major new issues at a highly expert level, UNIDIR could enter into its second decade of existence with the preparation of a

(Mr. Agayev, USSR)

study on that subject, as is proposed in the draft resolution. We believe that the international community would do well to express to UNIDIR its support for its useful and very relevant efforts.

I conclude by expressing our gratitude to all the sponsors who contributed to the work on the draft resolution and, first and foremost, to the delegations of France and Sri Lanka for their productive co-operation in drafting the text.

Mr. RASAPUTRAM (Sri Lanka): The representatives of France and the Soviet Union, in introducing draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.53, have referred to the tenth anniversary of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and congratulated UNIDIR on its work. Sri Lanka joins other sponsors in extending our congratulations to UNIDIR on this occasion.

It is generally acknowledged that an anniversary of an institution is a happy occasion. It is the more so when the Institute has made an impact and created an awareness among countries, institutions and individuals by its productive, timely and independent research work. In this context, we greatly appreciate the work done by UNIDIR in the last 10 years, particularly its in-depth studies of the emerging problems of disarmament. The approach to sensitive subjects, the volume of independent research so far undertaken, the high quality of its work and the opportunities it has always seized to carry out research in new areas have increased the trust and the confidence placed in it by all countries. Today UNIDIR has such a good track record that it is well known by its work.

The draft resolution on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of UNIDIR not only expresses our appreciation of the work done so far, but also calls on the Institute to continue its high-quality work in disarmament research. There is plenty of work to be done in this field, and we are happy to note that UNIDIR has, within its meagre resources, carried out work on some of the issues. We are aware that much more work has to be done and should be done.

As sponsors of the draft resolution, we should like to work towards the fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the Institute, set out in its Statute, which include

> "Providing the international community with more diversified and complete data"

on all disarmament issues, to build security and peace and to

(Mr. Rasaputram, Sri Lanka)

"facilitate progress ... towards the economic and social development of all peoples". (resolution 39/148 H, annex, article II, para. 2 (a)).

In accordance with its Statute, UNIDIR has been entrusted with certain studies by the General Assembly on at least three previous occasions. There are still further precedents relating to economic issues, in that the General Assembly at its thirty-seventh session recommended that UNIDIR should undertake an investigation of the modalities of an international disarmament fund for development.

In the draft resolution UNIDIR is requested, in accordance with the aims and objectives set out in its Statute, to prepare a report on the economic aspects of disarmament. Such a report would no doubt be valuable in identifying the economics involved in the disarmament process. At a time when certain aspects of disarmament are within reach, a report of this nature would make a significant contribution to our knowledge. Furthermore, UNIDIR itself could stimulate new initiatives to allow continuing efforts to be made to move towards a lower level of armaments consistent with international security by strengthening social, economic and political stability. Therefore the Sri Lanka delegation supports, and has joined in sponsoring, this draft resolution.

Mr. ARAUJO CASTRO (Brazil): I should like to take this opportunity to express the views of my delegation on some of the draft resolutions that are being considered by the Committee.

Together with Austria, Bulgaria, the Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Suriname, Sweden, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Venezuela and Yugoslavia, Brazil sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49, introduced yesterday in an eloquent statement by Ambassador Maj Britt Theorin of Sweden. We fully support the ideas contained in that draft, particularly with regard to the need to chart potential uses for environmental

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

endeavours of assets such as know-how, technology, infrastructure and production currently allocated to military activities, through a study to be elaborated by the Secretary-General, as requested in the draft resolution.

Brazil has long favoured consideration by the United Nations of the profound interrelationship of questions relating to disarmament, social and economic development and environmental protection, on which we have already had the opportunity to elaborate in our intervention in the general debate. The need to address this important issue was recognized in the draft Declaration of the 1990s as the Third Disarmament Decade, adopted by consensus at this year's session of the Disarmament Commission, which the Committee will endorse through draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.2, introduced by Nigeria.

The study to be prepared by the Secretary-General will be a first step in addressing some of the issues involved in considering the interrelationship between disarmament, development and environmental protection. We are ready to contribute to the study by sharing our own national experience in the utilization of military resources for environmental endeavours. For instance, the armed forces have been contributing to the efforts of the Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (IBAMA) in implementing "Operation Amazon". The main goal of the operation is to supervise the protection of the environment of the Amazon region, monitoring activities such as illegal fishing, deforestation and hunting of endangered or protected species.

In addressing the issue of technologies and know-how, the study, we suggest, should also envisage effective modalities for favourable access to, and transfer of, environmentally sound technologies, in particular to the developing countries, in line with the objectives set forth in paragraph 15 (m) of part I of General Assembly resolution 44/228. That resolution, which sets the framework for

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the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, should be taken into account in preparing the study, so as to ensure that a meaningful contribution can be made to the Preparatory Committee, as envisaged in paragraph 4 of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.49.

Together with many other delegations, Brazil has also sponsored draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.42, introduced by Ambassador Carl-Magnus Hyltenius of Sweden, dealing with the study on the role of the United Nations in the field of verification. The Group of Experts, presided over by Ambassador Fred Bild of Canada, a Group in which a Brazilian expert, Mr. Georges Lamazière, participated, prepared a comprehensive report on the issue, which stresses the central role of the United Nations in the sphere of disarmament and opens up new perspectives for action by this Organization in the specific field of verification, particularly of multilateral agreements.

In sponsoring draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.42, Brazil recognizes not only the relevance of the present study and the recommendations put forward by the Group of Experts, but the need to continue to consider issues related to verification of disarmament agreements. Brazil is ready, for its part, to give due consideration to the recommendations contained in the study and to co-operate with the Secretary-General in their implementation.

At the opening of the general debate during the present session of the General Assembly, President Collor announced:

> "Brazil today discards the idea of any experiments that might involve nuclear explosions, even if only for peaceful purposes. We trust other nations will consider the possibility of following the same path." (A/45/PV.4, p. 13)

Our sponsorship of draft resolution A/C.1/45/L.31, entitled "Amendment of the Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, in Outer Space and under

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Water", a recognition of the commendable efforts of the delegations which originally proposed the Amendment Conference, stresses the importance my Government attaches to the cessation of all nuclear explosions in all environments for all times. In the Amendment Conference and in other forums, Brazil will actively pursue the conclusion, at the earliest possible date, of a comprehensive nuclear-test ban.

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

We listened with great interest to the statement by Ambassador Adolf Ritter von Wagner of Germany introducing draft resolution L.36, entitled "Implementation of the guidelines for appropriate types of confidence-building measures". We fully agree with his statement that

> "wherever disarmament and arms control are at issue in the world it must be borne in mind that confidence building paves the way to disarmament, and in turn disarmament generates confidence". (A/C.1/45/PV.25 p. 22)

It is therefore the view of my delegation that the text of draft resolution L.36 could have been enriched by the inclusion of appropriate references to the relationship between disarmament and confidence-building measures.

While my delegation is prepared to support the adoption of the draft resolution in its present form, we believe that it could have taken into account, as recognized in resolution 43/78 H: that confidence-building measures, especially when applied in a comprehensive manner, have the potential to promote the attainment of disarmament measures; that confidence-building measures, while neither a substitute nor a pre-condition for arms limitation and disarmament measures, can be conducive to achieving progress in disarmament; and, finally, that effective disarmament and arms limitation measures which directly limit or reduce military potential have particularly high confidence-building value.

Let me conclude by making a comment on draft resolution L.20, entitled "Conventional disarmament" and introduced by Denmark, which endorses the recommendations of the Disarmament Commission with regard to the question of conventional disarmament. As all delegations are aware, the document agreed upon by the Disarmament Commission was the result of long and not always easy negotiations. It contains a comprehensive consideration of different aspects related to conventional disarmament and must be viewed as a whole.

(Mr. Araujo Castro, Brazil)

We therefore believe that in endorsing the text the draft resolution should not have highlighted only some of the aspects of the text agreed upon by the Commission but either should have limited itself to an endorsement or alternatively should have reproduced the entire agreed text as an annex to the draft resolution so as not to give the erroneous impression that some of the recommendations have a lesser value than others.

Mr. STANKOV (Bulgaria): Today, my delegation would like to share with other representatives in the First Committee some observations on certain basic aspects of the discussion which took place during the seminar on confidence-building measures in the maritime environment, held at Varna, Bulgaria, last September, as they were perceived by the Bulgarian participants. The discussion encompassed a broad range of issues and points of view. What I am about to say can hardly cover the whole picture; my aim is rather to illustrate the scope of the seminar.

In the course of the seminar it was acknowledged that confidence-building measures at sea are designed mainly to raise the crisis threshold. They should strengthen, as far as possible, security relations between States and should increase their immunity to sudden rises in tension and threats to peace.

It was noted that a number of naval activities may not be assumed to be threatening if they are not linked to any visible political tension in a given region. Certain large-scale naval operations conducted in peacetime may, however, be interpreted as threatening by smaller States and as a sign that the condition of peace could quickly change.

There was general agreement that proposed measures for confidence-building in the maritime environment must have a concrete aim that can be positively demonstrated. One example cited was that confidence could be strengthened by

(Mr. Stankov, Bulgaria)

limited logistical support during large-scale manoeuvres or the absence of powerful air cover.

It was noted that predictability, sought through prior notification, could also strengthen confidence, at least within the context of the set of measures concerning Europe. Measures reflecting common perceptions in that respect could be elaborated at the regional level. Participants from certain smaller countries emphasized that they regard early warning of innocent passage to be a desirable confidence-building measure.

The participants in the seminar discussed the idea of routine notification by navy vessels of their movement from one sector to another, as is the practice in civil aviation. At the same time, an opposing view was put forward, namely that the requirement of prior notification could prevent the deliberate use of ambiguity in naval activities that can serve the achievement of important tasks.

Some participants expressed the view that the exchange of data and information is unnecessary since considerable amounts of such data are obtained by various national technical means. According to a number of participants in the seminar, though, the collection and processing of data from such sources is beyond the means of smaller nations which do not possess adequate national technical means. The co-ordination of a system for exchaning navy-related information at given mutually acceptable levels could be both useful and fairly easy to achieve.

During the discussion it was pointed out that the question of levels of naval forces, such as numbers of units, is becoming increasingly irrelevant. The capabilities of vessels in terms of armaments and logistics are having more substantial implications for the security of States. The greater the capability of naval units directly to support land operations, the more destabilizing they could be in the present search for asymmetrical reductions of land-based forces with the

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aim of achieving stability and equilibrium. It was noted, however, that naval forces could not by themselves seize and defend land territory.

It was also noted that mutual unilateral measures, such as the withdrawal of certain tactical nuclear armaments from surface vessels, could serve as a more creative and quicker way to strengthen security, particularly in fields where verification is difficult. It was pointed out at the same time that, although unilateral withdrawals of larger forces are possible in some regions, such as Europe, there can be no substitute for agreements on certain confidence- and security-building measures. The reasoning is that the measures have to be discussed, the arguments of the parties understood and accepted, and the common benefit recognized. Agreements also help avoid sudden and rapid changes, and thus strengthen stability.

In that context, it was broadly agreed that regular seminars and security analyses - less official and ambitious than negotiations - between high-ranking navy command officers could be an important instrument for strengthening confidence and security.

A considerable number of participants pointed out that changes in Europe are taking place so quickly that there is reason to speak of the emergence of a new security system. It was noted that while some of the main naval Powers may find it difficult to accept the view that reductions achieved through negotiations can strengthen their security at sea it is more probable that some of the problems that until now have been the target of confidence-building measures would no longer be regarded as such, particularly in view of the new situation of co-operation in the field of security. The hope was expressed that self-restraint would become a natural norm of conduct based on a proper awareness of one's own interests.

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So far as global confidence-building measures in the maritime environment are concerned, it was agreed that at this stage certain joint actions of States to avert or combat ecological disasters and threats, as well as to conduct joint operations, are permissible and acceptable. The unique role of the United Nations was highlighted in this respect. In reference to the question of United Nations naval forces, a view was expressed that any such forces could neither be large nor have permanent status and command. Rather, they should be created for concrete purposes, should have limited functions, and should act in a manner similar to that of the United Nations land-based peace-keeping forces.

As host and co-organizer of the seminar, Bulgaria is satisfied with the discussion, as it was practice-oriented, constructive and free of prejudice and propaganda.

Here I should like to mention that a meeting of experts, within the framework of the project on confidence-building measures at sea of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, will be held in Bulgaria in the first half of next year.

We share the already widespread view that in the sphere of confidence-building at sea it is possible to identify fields of States' common interest for joint action to strengthen confidence. We shall continue to participate in and contribute to the multilateral efforts in that area. The Bulgarian delegation believes that in the international community there is sufficient interest and that there already exists enough material, in the form of ideas and proposals, to get the multilateral-disarmament mechanism more directly involved in the question of confidence-building measures in the maritime environment.

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN: In accordance with its decision taken at a previous meeting, the Committee will proceed to take decisions on the draft resolutions

(The Chairman)

concerning the disarmament agenda items on Friday, 9 November. It will thus begin the process of taking decisions on draft resolutions in clusters 1, 2 and 3, while maintaining the flexibility that may be necessary as we proceed.

I should like to add that it is my intention to take up the various clusters one after another. As we finish taking decisions on one group, we shall proceed to the next. Therefore I shall not always be in a position to announce far in advance which clusters are to be considered by the Committee. However, so far as possible I shall endeavour to let members know which clusters will be considered at the following meeting.

I now call on Mr. Kheradi, Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. KHERADI (Secretary of the Committee): I wish to inform the Committee that the following countries have become sponsors of the following draft resolutions: A/C.1/45/L.2, Costa Rica; L.12, Romania; L.15, L.23 and L.33, Sudan; L.27, L.29 and L.30, Afghanistan; L.31, Zimbabwe, Guatemala and Sudan; L.36, Portugal; L.37, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; and L.43 and L.47, Afghanistan.

The meeting rose at 4.15 p.m.